

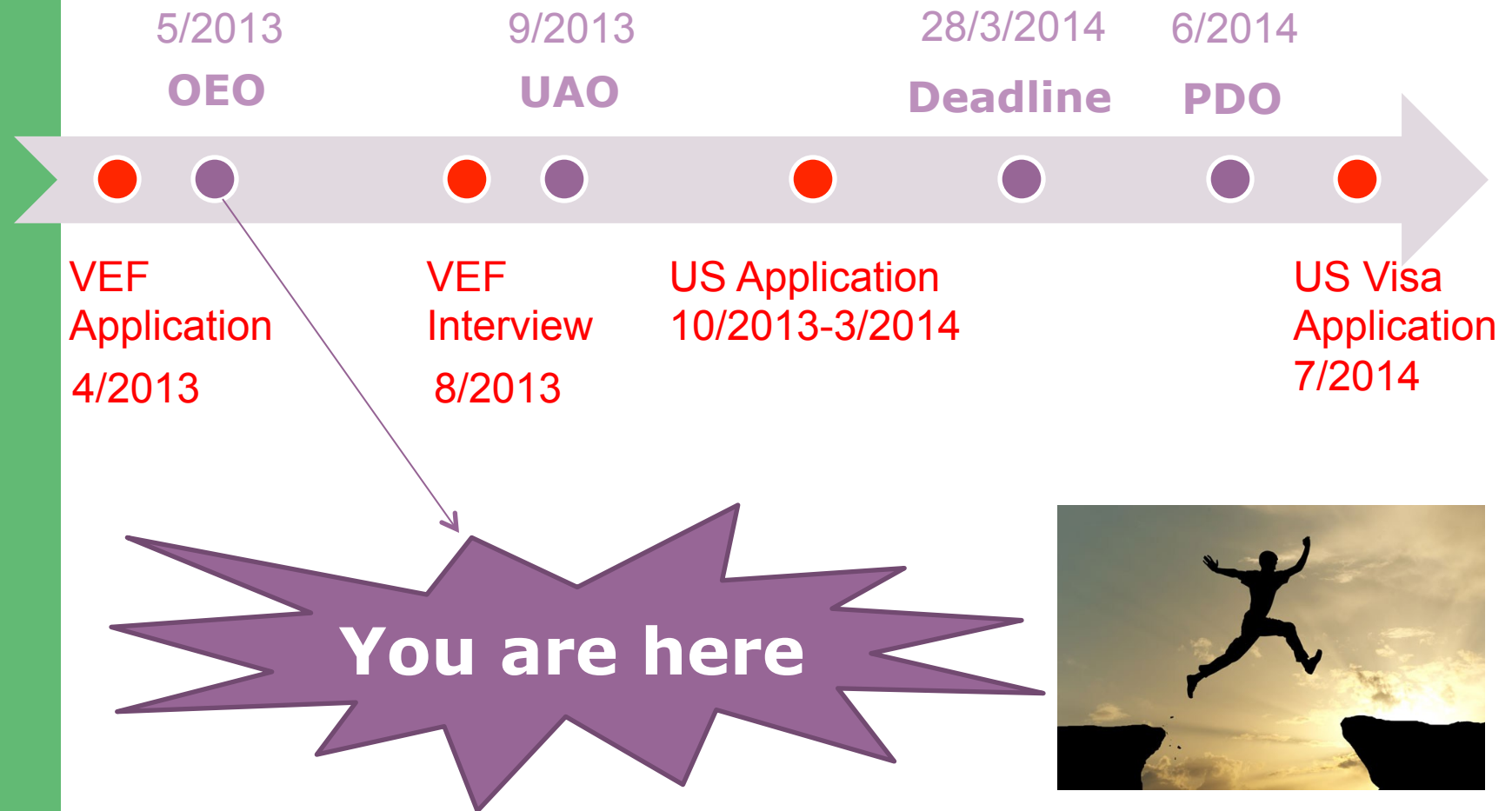


VEF OEO 2014
DEPARTURE TO PURSUE DREAM

Thiều Mai Lâm
Phan Thùy Linh
Nguyễn Thị Huyền Trang



VEF Departure





Our presentation

❖ General

- What happen on oral examination
- What VEF expect from candidate

❖ Things to prepare

- English
- Interview content
- Interview skill

❖ On the interview day

- Before leaving
- On the interview
- Difficult situation



VEF Oral Exam

- ❖ Interview team: 2 US professors
(There are also 1 note-taker and 1-2 observers in the interview room)
- ❖ Content: Anything about you, specifically in your **AS and PS**
- ❖ Their question is not difficult but very detailed





What VEF expects from candidate

- ❖ Can you be successful in an academic environment in USA?
- ❖ Are you qualified for a PhD/Master's candidate?
- ❖ Will you survive in US society?
- ❖ What you might do after getting the fellowship?
- ❖ How will you contribute to the development of Vietnam science and engineering?



Things to prepare

❖ English

- Speaking
- Listening

❖ Content

- Warm-up questions
- Research/ Academy knowledge question
- Future program

❖ Interview skill

- Board skill
- Body language



English

❖ Speaking

- Speak loudly and clearly (30min/day)
- Practice pronunciation for unfamiliar words
- Record your speak and listen again
- Group study
- English class



❖ Listening



TVShows



Content

❖ Warm-up Question

- Introduce yourself
- Spare time
- Your strengths/weaknesses
- Why VEF Fellowship?
- etc



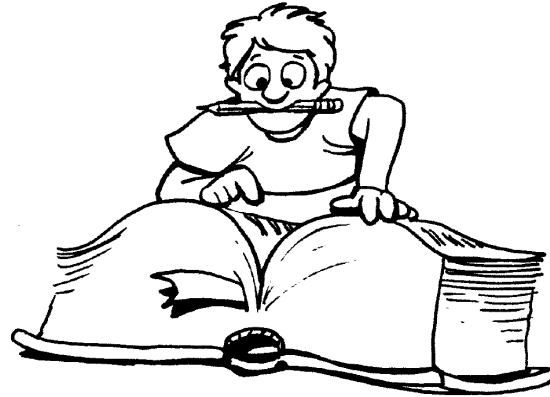
Tips: If you are an interviewer, what would you ask the interviewee?



Content

❖ Research

Review carefully
your **AS** and **PS**.



❖ Be able to explain your research

- Objectives
- Methodology
- Results and Impacts
- Developing your research in the future

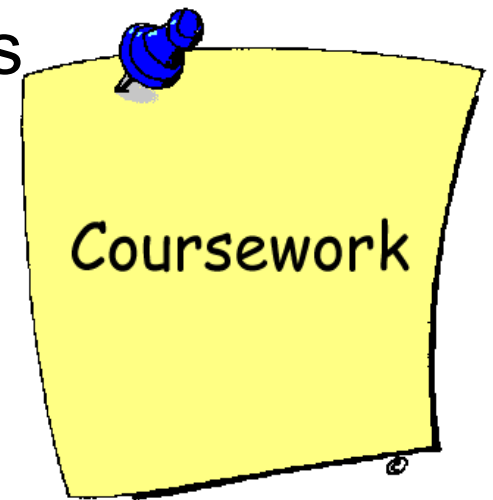




Content

❖ Academic

- Fundamental courses
 - What is your favorite courses?
 - Review some important theories
 - Explain your low grade courses



If you do not have much research experience, professors may focus on your course work.



Content

❖ Future program

- **Why US ?**
- Why the university?
- Why the professor?
- Prepare some questions to ask professors
- **How do you imagine yourself in 10 years later ?**



**Connect your
background and future
plan in a convincing
way**

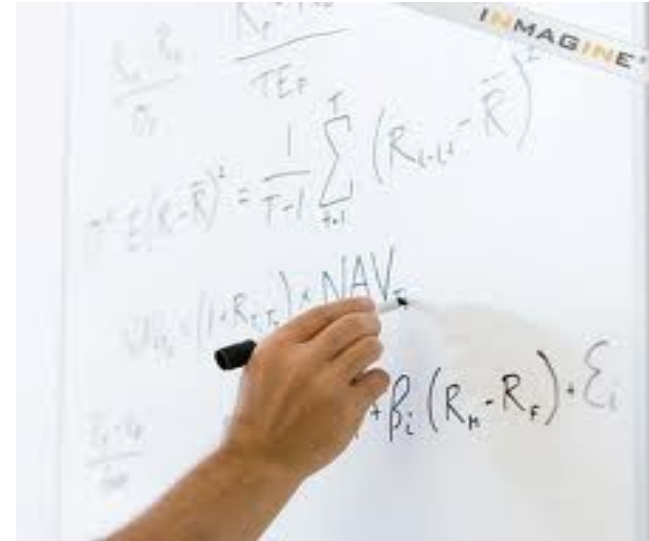




Interview skill



Mock interview AMAP



Use whiteboard



**Practice,
practice and
practice**



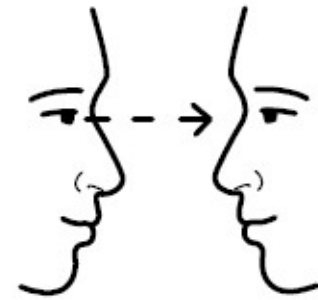
Interview skill



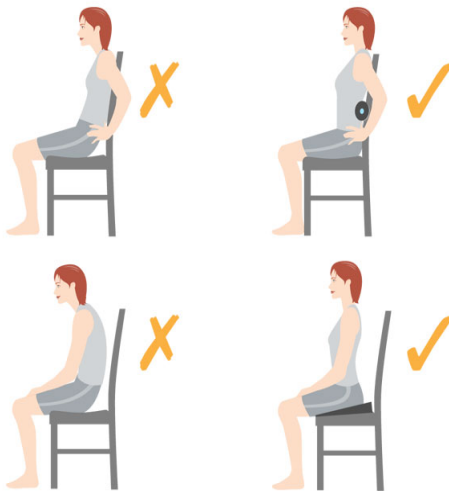
Walk with
confidence



Firm handshake



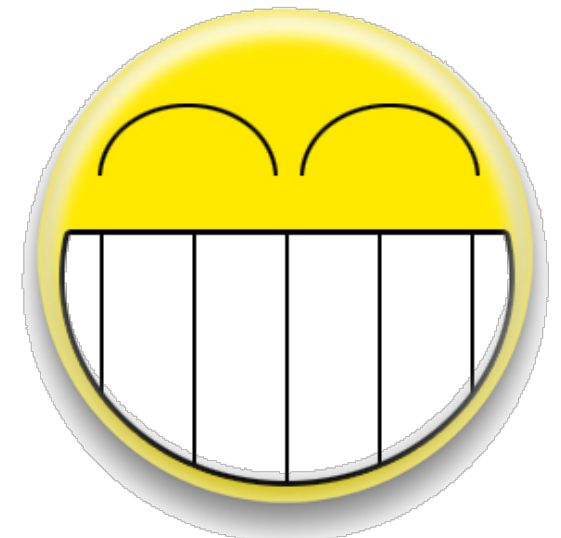
Eye contact



Sit in a relaxed
manner



Use body
language wisely



Always smile



One day before interview

Should NOT

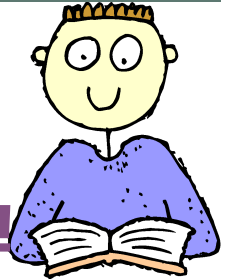
❖ Freak-out!



❖ AND Do nothing 😊



Should



❖ DO SOMETHING!!!

- Skim everything you have prepared ⇔ You are **good**!
- Practice simple speaking in front of mirror ⇔ You are **awesome**!
- Message friend ⇔ May work for somebody 😊
- Listen to music and Take it easy ⇔ Being lazy with your own limitation! Haha
- Sleep early and tight!

❖ You can win!





Before leaving

Unexpected situations!

- Backup time: Minimum 30 mins earlier!
- Have a slight meal
- Formal clothes
- Slight make up





On the interview day

Notetaking



- Shake hands; Thank you and Goodbye
- Listen carefully to the question
- Be eager to let professors know more about you and wisely recognize the connection during the talk!
- Be ready to SHINE and present your idea on a white board (if needed or required)



Go get your point!



Connection with interviewers



Welcome to my world! 😊



On the interview day

❖ How did I succeed?

- Speak precisely, not too fast.
- Tell some funny appropriate stories
- No dead-time during the 45 minutes!
- Show strong confidence in your voice and your eyes





On the interview day

❖ Difficult situation

**STAY STRONG AND
CONTROLLING!**

(experiences shared by former VEF fellows)

You do not understand the question/ You can't hear what professor said	Politely ask the professors to repeat or restate the question: "Could you please restate the question?" "If I understand correctly, you are asking about....?" "Sorry, I don't get it. Can you say again"
You do not know the answer of the question	Talk about something related that you know "I do not know much about..., but I know that..."
The professors do not understand your answer	Repeat your answer slowly, precisely, use the white board with charts or diagrams, etc...





On the interview day

❖ Difficult situation

Your answer is wrong	Say "sorry" and answer the question again	
The professors mention a weakness in your application	Explain it reasonably or show that you have been working on it => achievements	
You need more time to think about his question	Say: "Ok, let me explain it" and then try to clean the board slowly to think about the question	



Useful reference

- ❖ **We can walk with you :**
askfellow@googlegroups.com
- ❖ Question to practice
- ❖ VEF fellow experience sharing

Thank you for your listening!

